



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia D. Gibbons
Director

Media Advisory:
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**\$10,000 Grant from Lt. Governor's Office on Aging Will Help
Restart Alzheimer's Respite Program in Lancaster County**

- **Who:** The Lancaster County Council on Aging, Inc., Executive Director, Sally P. Sherrin. Ms. Sherrin can be contacted at (803) 285-6956.
- **What:** This local organization that serves senior citizens and their families in your community was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the South Carolina Lt. Governor's Office on Aging to help start a Group Respite Care program at the new Senior Center in Lancaster.
- **When:** On June 28, Lt. Governor André Bauer will personally present the grant award to Council and Program leaders. Photographs of the award presentation will be available for news organizations unable to attend.
- **Where:** The grant awards ceremony will take place at the Statehouse in Columbia. Lt. Governor Bauer's Office is on the first floor.

Background:

The Lancaster County Council on Aging's new state-of-the art Senior Center includes dedicated space to provide specialized day care for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. A \$10,000 seed grant just awarded to the agency by the South Carolina Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) will go a long way towards supporting the staff, volunteers, and other resources necessary to provide services in that space. The Lancaster Council on Aging previously sponsored a respite program for Alzheimer's sufferers beginning in 1992. That program was suspended until construction on the new facility in Lancaster could be completed. Many of the staff and volunteers who worked on the old program are expected to return to help out once the service resumes.

Based on population figures, an estimated 952 individuals in Lancaster County suffer from Alzheimer's disease. The new program will provide a half-day of respite care, twice weekly. Project leaders hope to serve up to 25 people each month in the new program, and have received endorsements from the Catawba Area Agency on Aging, the Lancaster County Council, and the United Way of Lancaster County.

Group respite programs provide structured activities in a safe, caring environment for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's or related disorders. These programs fulfill a tremendous need for family members and other caregivers by giving them a break from the demands of providing care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Group respite programs also greatly benefit the individual being cared for, by providing them with social interaction and exercise overseen by trained professionals.

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) in the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging was created to provide statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families and caregivers. Legislation directs the center to:

- Initiate the development of systems which coordinate the delivery of programs and services
- Facilitate the coordination and integration of research, program development, planning and quality assurance
- Identify potential users of services and gaps in the service delivery system and expand methods and resources to enhance statewide services
- Serve as a resource for education, research and training and provide information and referral services
- Provide technical assistance for the development of support groups and other local initiatives to serve individuals, families and caregivers
- Recommend public policy concerning Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to state policymakers
- Submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging and to the General Assembly

A detailed demographic look at South Carolina and Lancaster County's senior population based on the 2000 federal census can be found at www.scmatureadults.org. The report Mature Adults in South Carolina is a publication of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.